

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE, FAS

FROM AGRICULTURAL OFFICER

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF CORRECT POLICIES RESULTS IN RECORD PRC
GRAIN HARVEST

SUMMARY:

CCP JOURNAL RED FLAG CLAIMS THAT SUCCESSFUL CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION MEASURES TAKEN IN IMPLEMENTATION OF "CORRECT" POLICIES HAVE RESULTED IN RECORD GRAIN HARVEST, THE FIRST SUCH OFFICIAL CLAIM FOR 1974, AND "VERY GOOD" INDUSTRIAL CROP RESULTS. ARTICLE WARNED OF NEED TO FOLLOW SOCIALIST ROAD IN RURAL AREAS, TO SUPPORT POLICY OF "AGRICULTURE FIRST" THROUGH FINANCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ASSISTANCE AND TO CURB ADMINISTRATIVE WASTE AND BUREAUCRACY. END SUMMARY.

2. CHINA'S GRAIN PRODUCTION REACHED A "NEW HIGH" IN 1974, ACCORDING TO DECEMBER ISSUE OF CCP'S THEORETICAL JOURNAL, RED FLAG, JUST PUBLISHED. INDUSTRIAL CROP HARVEST RESULTS WERE DESCRIBED AS "VERY GOOD", WITH COTTON, OILSEEDS AND
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BAST FIBERS MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY. ARTICLE ALSO NOTED:

(A) HIGH PER-MOU YIELDS OF GRAIN RANGING FROM 800 CATTIES NORTH OF YELLOW RIVER TO 1,600 CATTIES SOUTH OF YANGTZE; (B) ACHIEVEMENT OF GRAIN SURPLUS STATUS IN FORMERLY "CALAMITY-RIDDEN" HOPEH, SHANTUNG AND HONAN PROVINCES; AND (C) INCREASE IN GRAIN RESERVES AT STATE, COMMUNE AND PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD LEVELS.

2. THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC MEASURES, TAKEN IN IMPLEMENTATION OF CORRECT POLICY LINES, CONTRIBUTED TO THE "EXCELLENT 1974 AGRICULTURAL SITUATION," ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE;

(A) PRELIMINARY HARNESSING OF THREE "DISASTROUS" RIVERS --YELLOW, HUAI AND HAI--NOW COMPLETED, WITH CONSEQUENT REDUCTION OF FLOODS AND WATERLOGGING AND INCREASE IN YIELDS;

(B) 21 MILLION HECTARES OF LAND FORMERLY VULNERABLE TO WATERLOGGING HAS BEEN IMPROVED;

(C) INCREASED SCALE OF FARMLAND CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION OVER PAST 3 YEARS;

(D) ENLARGED IRRIGATED AREA (ESPECIALLY FROM NEW WALLS IN NORTH CHINA);

(E) EXPANSION OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTATION AMONG MASSES;

(F) HIGHER LEVEL OF AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION.

3. THE "CORRECT" POLICY LINES WERE NOTED AS: (A) FOLLOWING THE SOCIALIST ROAD IN RURAL AREAS AND (B) TAKING AGRICULTURE AS THE FOUNDATION, AND INDUSTRY AS THE LEADING FACTOR.

4. UNDER FIRST (AND MOST IMPORTANT) POLICY, THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES OF 1950'S, SOCIALIST EDUCATION AND CULTURAL CRITICIZING LIN PIAO AND CONFUCIUS HAVE ALL SERVED TO LIBERATE PRODUCTIVE FORCES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AND CONSOLIDATE THE RURAL SOCIALIST ECONOMY. ARTICLE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE TWO ROADS--SOCIALIST AND CAPITALIST--WILL CONTINUE IN COUNTRYSIDE.

5. SUCCESSES IN HOPEH, SHANTUNG AND HONAN (PARA 1(B), ABOVE) ARE RESULT OF GIVING TOP PRIORITY TO ALLOCATION OF LOCAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO AGRICULTURE AND MOBILIZING LIGHT AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES TO AID AGRICULTURE (E.G., IN DEVELOPING FERTILIZER PRODUCTION).

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6. ARTICLE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING POLICY OF "AGRICULTURE FIRST" IN FUTURE THROUGH MEASURES CALLING FOR ADHERENCE TO MASS LINE, CADRE PARTICIPATION IN "GRASS-ROOTS" LABOR, SIMPLER ADMINISTRATION AND FEWER AND SHORTER MEETINGS.

7. COMMENT: THE ARTICLE IS SIGNIFICANT (A) BECAUSE OF ITS HARVEST CLAIMS; (B) BECAUSE IT GIVES CREDIT FOR 1974 AGRICULTUR-

AL SUCCESSES TO MEASURES TAKEN IN IMPLEMENTATION OF CORRECT POLICY LINES; AND (C) BECAUSE THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY LINE WILL REMAIN THE SAME FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE WITH INCREASING STRESS APPARENTLY TO BE PLACED ON CURBING BUREAUCRATIC TENDENCIES AMONG CADRES AND SEEKING ECONOMIES IN ADMINISTRATION.

8. THIS IS FIRST OFFICIAL CLAIM OF RECORD GRAIN HARVEST FOR 1974 AND FIRST OVERALL STATEMENT ON 1974 INDUSTRIAL CROP HARVEST. OUR INTERPRETATION OF "VERY GOOD" HARVESTS OF COTTON, OILSEEDS AND FIBERS IS THAT INDIVIDUAL CROPS ARE EITHER AS GOOD AS OR BETTER THAN 1974 HARVEST. (CONSPICUOUSLY NOT MENTIONED WERE TOBACCO AND SUGAR CROPS.)

9. THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTENSIFIED CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION INPUTS INTO CHINA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, PARTICULARLY IN PAST 2-3 YEARS, IS NOW WELL KNOWN. THE STRESS ON BENEFITS DERIVED FROM SUCH POLICY IMPLEMENTATION IN RECENT PAST AND ON NEED FOR CONTINUED STRONG POLICY ROLE IN FUTURE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION EFFORTS, SUGGEST PROBABLE INCREASED CONCENTRATION OF RESOURCES--INCLUDING FINANCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND MANPOWER--RESOURCES--ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

10. WITH 4TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN (5YP) DRAWING TO CLOSE (IN 1975) AND TARGETS OF 12-YEAR (NADP) PROGRAM (DUE TO END IN 1967) STILL UNFULFILLED, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GUIDELINES FOR 5TH 5YP NOW BEING DISCUSSED WILL INCLUDE STRONG EMPHASIS ON CONTINUATION OF PRESENT POLICIES IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. AN EXAMPLE OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS IS THE RECENTLY HELD (NOV. 28 TO DEC. 8) "SECOND PEASANT CONGRESS" IN CANTON, ATTENDED BY MORE THAN FOUR THOUSAND DELEGATES FROM KWANGTUNG PROVINCE. THE MEETING DISCUSSED (A) THE PLANNED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TARGETS FOR 1975 AND (B) THE DRAFT PLAN FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PROVINCE DURING THE FIFTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN (RS CANTON, DECEMBER 8 AND 9).

1. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM APPEARS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT SUGGESTS PROBABLE REPLACEMENT OF UNCOMPLETED NADP BY NEW NATIONAL PROGRAM WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY INCORPORATE POLICY LINES MENTIONED ABOVE IN SETTING NEW GOALS FOR CHINA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR. IT IS ASSUMED THAT SUCH MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD OR WILL BE HELD IN OTHER PROVINCES WITH PROVINCIAL TARGETS TO BE INCORPORATED IN A NEW NADP.
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